

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented) An *in vitro* diagnostic method for detecting the presence of nucleic acid of a Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1) in a biological sample comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1, and

(b) detecting HIV-1 nucleic acid present in said supernatant.

48-50. (canceled).

51. (new) A method for preparing HIV-1 RNA for detecting the presence of nucleic acid of a Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1) in a biological sample comprising:

(a) providing a biological fluid comprising HIV-1 infected cells;

(b) preparing a cell-free supernatant from the biological fluid; and

(c) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, further comprising detecting the HIV-1 RNA.